

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7370

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 3715

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, ML

SUBJ: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO MALIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 209162

1. THERE BEING NO RESIDENT BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE IN MALI, AMBASSADOR UNDERTOOK DEMARCHE ALONE, AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, WITH HALIDOU TOURE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ON SEPTEMBER 8. MAKAN DEMBELE, AMERICAN DESK OFFICER AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS ALSO PRESENT. THE MAIN PORTION OF THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS TOGETHER WITH UNOFFICIAL FRENCH TRANSLATION, ANNEXES A, B, AND C, AND BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S SEPTEMBER 1 STATEMENT ON THE ISSUE OF LAW AND ORDER (ALL TYPED FROM TEXTS TRANSMITTED IN VARIOUS TELEGRAMS) WERE DELIVERED UNDER COVER OF A NOTE EXPRESSING AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIA. AMBASSADOR MADE ORAL PRESENTATION OF PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS, DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS SET FORTH REFTEL, AND ADDED ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE'S STATEMENT REPORTED WIRELESS FILE THAT A SUFFICIENT BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING EXISTED TO WARRANT MOVING ON TO THE NEXT STEP, TAKING
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THE MATTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. DIRECTOR GENERAL WAS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN THE PLAN AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR PROVIDING FULL TEXTS. HE RAISED VARIOUS PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION, WHICH WERE ADDRESSED TO THE EXTENT COVERED IN AVAILABLE MATERIALS. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED

THE EXISTENCE OF FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION BUT STRESSED THE BRITISH-AMERICAN CONVICTION THAT THE PLAN WAS REASONABLE AND EQUITABLE AND OUR DETERMINATION TO GO THE ENTIRE COURSE. TOURE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE STATEMENT THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PLAN WERE NOT SUBJECT TO THE VETO OF ANY PARTY.

3. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL CONCLUDED THE EXCHANGE WITH THE COMMENT THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT A PRECISE PLAN HAD BEEN DRAWN UP AND THAT THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS SEEMED SERIOUSLY COMMITTED TO FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THE PROCESS COULD NOW CONTINUE TO THE EVENTUAL ACHIEVEMENT OF MAJORITY RULE IN AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. TOURE ADDED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD PROCEED TO A DETAILED STUDY OF THE PROPOSALS.

4. COMMENT: THOUGH KEENLY AWARE OF PROSPECTIVE DIFFICULTIES, TOURE EXPRESSED NONE OF THE USUAL SKEPTICISM CONCERNING THE CHANCES OF ANY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. RATHER, HIS RESPONSE ON THIS OCCASION WAS POSITIVE AND EVEN HOPEFUL.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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